

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1016

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EALR, ETRD, UR, RO
SUBJ: SOVIET-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION MEETING
REF: BUCHAREST 0832

1. SUMMARY. TENTH SESSION OF SOVIET-ROMANIAN
ECONOMIC COMMISSION WAS HELD FEB. 1-3 IN BUCHAREST.
DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON FUTURE TRADE PROSPECTS FOR NEAR
AND LONG TERM; REVIEW OF COOPERATION PROJECTS,
INCLUDING CEMA PROJECTS; AND POSSIBILITIES FOR
COORDINATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR
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PERIOD 1981-85. PROTOCOL (TEXT NOT AVAILABLE) SIGNED
AT CLOSING BY K.F. KATUSHEV, VICE-PRESIDENT OF SOVIET
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, AND GHEORGHE RADULESCU, GOR
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. END SUMMARY.

2. TENTSH SESSION OF SOVIET/ROMANIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC "COLLABORATION" HELD IN

BUCHAREST, FEB. 1-3, AS REPORTED IN SCINTEIA, FEB. 4. PRESIDENT OF ROMANIAN SIDE WAS GHEORGHE RADULESCU AND SOVIET PRESIDENT WAS K.F. KATUSHEV. ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED REPORT, DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE IN "CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDSHIP AND FULL UNDERSTANDING." AT CLOSE OF SESSION. PROTOCOL WAS SIGNED AND KATUSHEV WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU FOR DISCUSSION ON EXPANDING BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND "SOME ASPECTS OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION."

3. SCINTEIA REPORT NOTED FOLLOWING TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

- A. REVIEW OF 1977 RESULTS AND TRADE PROTOCOL FOR 1978;
 - B. POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION IN SPECIALIZATION OF PRODUCTION FOR NEAR OR LONG TERM, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO MACHINE BUILDING, CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, AIR TRANSPORT, OIL EXTRACTION AND PROCESSING, TRUCK PRODUCTION, ENERGY, AND POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS;
 - C. POSSIBILITIES FOR COORDINATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR PERIOD 1981-85; AND
 - D. MEASURES NEEDED TO INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE (BARTER) OF GOODS. (NOTE: IN PRACTICE, LARGEST SHARE OF GOODS INVOLVED IN THIS EXCHANGE IS CONSUMER GOODS.)
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4. DEPUTY DIRECTOR VOLKOV OF SOVIET COMMERCIAL OFFICE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT IMPORTANCE OF COMMISSION FAR OUTSHADOWED SIGNIFICANCE OF 1978 TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNING IN SENSE THAT ALL AREAS OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS WERE REVIEWED AND LEVEL OF PARTICIPANTS WAS HIGHER. VOLKOV SAID 15 DEPUTY MINISTERS FROM SOVIET MINISTRIES INVOLVED IN ROMANIAN TRADE AND COOPERATION PROJECTS WERE IN ATTENDANCE. IN ADDITION TOPICS MENTIONED PARA 3, HE SAID KATUSHEV DISCUSSED CEMA PROJECTS AND CEMA STRATEGY FOR UPCOMING TALKS WITH EC COMMISSION VP HAFERKAMP WHICH TAKE PLACE IN BUCHAREST, FEB. 20.

5. ACCORDING TO VOLKOV, THIS COMMISSION MEETING, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED IN FALL 1977, WAS RESCHEDULED FOR EARLY FEBRUARY DUE TO CELEBRATION OF SOVIET 60TH ANNIVERSARY. NEXT SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1978 AND WILL NOT DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. IT WAS DECIDED AT THIS SESSION THAT ALL FUTURE COMMISSIONS WOULD INCLUDE SUBJECT OF SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL COOPERATION, I.E.,

WORK OF SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL COMMISSION WILL BE
MERGED WITH ECONOMIC COMMISSION, WHICH IS THE WAY
SOVIETS HANDLE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES.

6. COMMENT. VOLKOV MENTIONED THAT DURING PORTION
OF COMMISSION RELATED TO CEAM COOPERATION, ROMANIANS
ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN ONGOING CEMA PROJECTS,
PREVIOUSLY SHUNNED, AND MOREOVER ASKED FOR ACCESS
ON THEIR OWN TERMS. IN LIGHT OF SCINTEIA'S
CHARACTERIZATION OF TALKS AS OCCURRING WITH "FULL
UNDERSTANDING" AS CITED PARA 2 AND COMBINED WITH
VOLKOV'S DOWNPLAYING OF THIS STATEMENT, IT IS
PROBABLE THAT ROMANIANS HAVE EXTRICATED MORE CONCESSIONS
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FROM THE SOVIETS THAN VICE VERSA. END COMMENT.
AGGREY

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